

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF
PUBLIC COMMENT FOR A WATER QUALITY STUDY (TMDL)
OF MOORES CREEK, LODGE CREEK, MEADOW CREEK AND
SCHENKS BRANCH**

PUBLIC MEETING: A meeting will be held Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 6.30pm at the Albemarle County Office Building at 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902 . This meeting will be open to the public and all are welcome. In the case of inclement weather, the meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2015 at the same time and place. Please contact Tara Sieber at (540) 574-7870 with any questions.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), its contractors, Virginia Tech's Biological Systems Engineering Department, and the Technical Advisory Committee comprised of local landowners and interested parties, will present the results of a water quality study known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) for Moores Creek, Lodge Creek, Meadow Creek and Schenks Branch. This is an opportunity for local residents to learn more about the water quality study and find out how they can help. A public comment period will follow the meeting (6/16/2015 – 7/17/2015).

MEETING DESCRIPTION: A public meeting will be held to introduce to the local community the water quality improvement process in Virginia, known as the TMDL Process, review the work of the Technical Advisory Committee, solicit the input of the community, and review the next steps. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Several streams in the Rivanna River watershed do not meet Virginia's water quality standards and have been placed on the 2006, 2008, and 2010 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired. Moores Creek, Lodge Creek, Meadow Creek and Schenks Branch do not host a healthy and diverse population of aquatic life, and subsequently were listed as impaired for the "General Benthic (Aquatic life)" water quality standard. This water quality study reviewed all data collected and determined the cause of the benthic impairment to be excess sediment and hydrologic modification. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, sediment levels need to be reduced to the TMDL amount. Virginia agencies worked with local community partners to identify sources of excess sediment and recommend reductions. The stream segments included in this TMDL study are as follows:

Stream	County	Length (miles)	Impairment
Moores Creek	Charlottesville/ Albemarle	6.37 mi	Aquatic Life (benthics)
Lodge Creek	Charlottesville	1.57 mi	
Meadow Creek	Charlottesville/ Albemarle	4.0 mi	
Schenks Branch	Charlottesville	1.13 mi	

HOW TO COMMENT: The public comment period for these public meetings will end on July 17, 2015. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to:

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